

BRACKETING: THE “WHY”

When you are free writing, do you ever feel the urge to look something up?

Do you find yourself pausing to think of the right word?

Bracketing is a strategy for **streamlining the free-writing process.**

BRACKETING: THE “HOW”

When you get stuck on a word, phrase, or even a sentence, simply insert a placeholder in [] brackets.

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Here are some tips:

- You can put anything you want in the [].
- It could be a category (e.g. [author]) or a questionable word or phrase (e.g. [Raymond Williams?]).
- You can even leave them empty!

BRACKETING: THE “HOW”

Later, you can go back and fill in the brackets.

BRACKETING: THE “HOW”

Nature is a difficult term to define. According to [author], the way people use this term has changed dramatically over time. However, [author] only directly addresses the way people have used the word “nature” in [geograph region]. It would be interesting to perform a similar [process] for the Vietnamese term “thiên nhiên”, which is commonly translated as “nature”.

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Nature is a difficult term to define. According to Williams, the way people use this term has changed dramatically over time. However, Williams only directly addresses the way people have used the word “nature” in western Europe. It would be interesting to perform a similar analysis for the Vietnamese term “thiên nhiên”, which is commonly translated as “nature”.

BRACKETING: THE “WHEN”

You may want to use bracketing when:

- You can't remember a name, date, or other detail.
- You can't decide on the right word to use.
- You aren't sure what you want to argue and want some flexibility.
- Generally: any time you get stuck!

BRACKETING EXERCISES

In these exercises, you will separate the initial writing process into two phases.

In phase 1, you will free-write. While you do this, use bracketing to “lubricate” the process. Try to write continuously until the instructor says to stop.

In phase 2, you will return to what you just wrote and fill in the brackets. Your goal is to replace all square brackets with presentable text!